United Nations A/RES/73/81

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2018

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 103 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2018

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/73/512)*]

73/81. Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the addresses of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as those of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, and referring to their various expressions of support for and concern about the endeavours of the Conference and calls for the Conference to commence negotiations without delay to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and emphasizing the importance of effective multilateralism in the context of the changing international climate,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2018 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work by means of negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/65 of 4 December 2017, or agree to a programme of work, although the Conference did hold substantive discussions in the framework of subsidiary bodies established for that purpose,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of priority issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/73/27).

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Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to implementing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as among the successive Presidents of the Conference,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made at the 2018 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, notably the work of the five subsidiary bodies established pursuant to the decision adopted on 16 February 2018,[2] and the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament of reports of four of the subsidiary bodies, and noting the discussions on the functioning of the Conference, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Acknowledging the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

Recognizing the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2018 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock of two decades by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2019 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,[3] as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on the establishment of subsidiary bodies on agenda items 1 to 4, and one on agenda items 5, 6 and 7,[2] which also considered emerging and other issues relevant to substantive work of the Conference, for the 2018 session, and welcomes the adoption by the Conference of substantive reports of four of the subsidiary bodies, as a basis for substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2019 session;

5. *Encourages* the current President of the Conference on Disarmament and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

6. *Requests* the current President of the Conference on Disarmament and successive Presidents to cooperate with the States members of the Conference in the effort to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2019 session;

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[2] Ibid., para. 13.

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), para. 18.

7. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2019 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on its work;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

45th plenary meeting
5 December 2018